

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED AGAINST SENATE BILLS 637 AND 894 5/29/2018 BY LINDA HARVEY, 2041
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Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Committee: I would like to begin by thanking the Energy Committee for setting aside time to receive testimony in regard to Senate bills 637 and 894. I thank the Chairman for his commitment to announcing future hearings thirty days in advance.

Firstly, I would like to invoke learning from our common history and experience. I am old enough to remember a time when people smoked in most public places. We smoked in restaurants, theatres, grocery stores, hospitals, and other venues with impunity. My doctor smoked during our consultation on my health. I remember seeing a man flick cigarette ash on fresh cabbages in the produce section. Long before the objective research results were in, we called cigarettes "coffin nails" because common sense dictated that inhaling smoke into delicate respiratory tissues was asking for trouble. Similarly, in the matter before us, we know that the cells of the human body communicate with each other via a low voltage electrical system. It is only common sense that to overwhelm that natural electrical system with massive external signals is inviting biological disruption with negative consequence.

In time we came to know that the tobacco industry long knew exactly how damaging their product was. We learned that the industry consciously conducted research on how to make cigarettes maximally addictive and implemented their findings for profit with a callous disregard for public health. Their executives lied about all of this under oath. Repeatedly. The dangers of second-hand smoke were revealed to us long after we had inhaled our parents' smoke and our children had inhaled ours. And this is only one industry that has minimized, denied, and falsified information impacting public and planetary health. When money is the bottom line, truth is the first casualty.

Smokers had an individual choice. No one made that decision for them. Nor did the government force any group of persons to smoke. It was a free choice, however uninformed, misinformed, or manipulated. When it comes to 5G and related issues, individuals do not have a choice. Representative Johnson asked if an individual had recourse if they did not want 5G. The answer given was that there was a provision for FCC standards to be implemented. Later we heard testimony that FCC standards do not support health and were formulated by the very fox guarding the henhouse. If you vote for these bills, please be clear that you are voting against free choice, which is breaking faith with democracy.

Secondly, I want to speak from the perspective of being part of the great chain of being. Behind me are my deceased parents and grandparents and countless ancestors. In front of me, beyond my children and grandchildren, are unborn generations. The decisions you make on this matter will affect Michigan residents now and forward through time. You have a serious responsibility as elected officials to consider the mountain of evidence that these measures are reliably proven to cause harm to physical bodies and to disrupt life in non-remedial ways. I was deeply touched by the Mayor's commitment to the welfare of the citizens in his town. We need more like him. We heard other testimony that 5 G is not necessary because there is technology that is a double winner in being both safer and more efficient.

Our current technology basically exceeds our wisdom and maturity as a people. We must exercise prudence over time to counteract our society's tendency to implement short-term goals promoted by the loudest voices in the interest of market competition and functioning, without honestly naming and questioning the values and philosophy underlying our choices, without giving credence to the damage science assures us certain technologies will deliver, or even considering alternatives.

One thing today's testimony has made abundantly clear is that we do not have to choose between technology and health. We can have it all, but we must discriminate. We must educate ourselves and evaluate testimony with wisdom and the best intentions.

Vote NO on SB637 and SB894. Thank you for your time and attention.